

October 10, 2025



# The Ninety-Three

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## County Officials Attend Legislative Conference in Beatrice

We had a very well-attended and productive Legislative Conference this week. Attendees heard presentations about the 2027-2030 salary guidelines, legislative updates, and an overview of NACO's 2026 legislative platform.

As a reminder, you can get legislative updates directly to your inbox every week during the session by [subscribing to our Legislative Newsletter](#).

Thank you to everyone who attended!





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## Celebrating One Year of NACO West

Saturday, October 11 marks the first anniversary of NACO West. We've hosted all kinds of events and have received glowing reviews from the businesses and organizations that have rented the space.

If you or anyone you know needs a space to learn, connect, and inspire, [book your event at NACO West!](#)





# 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## All In



# What are you "All In" on?



**ALL IN** means showing up for our veterans, not just with words, but with services, respect, and opportunity.

**ALL IN** means investing in our communities, even when the path is steep, the budget is tight, and the politics are tough.

**ALL IN** means not just fighting your fights, but helping every county fight to protect their citizens against unhealthy values.

**ALL IN** means building relationships rooted in trust, earned through integrity and action, not convenience or applause.

**Being ALL IN** means believing that local government is not just administration—it's stewardship. It's the quiet courage to do what's right, even when it's unpopular, even when it's hard. It's the long view, the late nights, and the unwavering belief that unity, hope, strength and unwavering confident leadership can prevail.

To every county official and NACO partner who's leaned in, listened harder, led with heart, courage and discernment: thank you. Together, we're not just navigating change—we're shaping it.

**Because when we're ALL IN, Nebraska wins!**



— MICAELA WUEHLER  
LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

At the 2025 NACO Annual Conference, we're celebrating being "all in" as a 100% NACo membership state.

Whether it's public safety, infrastructure, economic development, or health and human services, counties are **all in** on delivering solutions and building stronger communities across Nebraska.

Help us amplify and celebrate the dedication and innovation that define county government. Leading up to the conference, we want to know what you're "all in" on.

NACO Communications Specialist Lauren Franken will be collecting county officials' "all in" stories from now until the conference to be shared on our website and social media. To share your **"all in"** story, fill out [this questionnaire](#).

## County Official Award Nominations Open: *Nominations Close October 17*

We are now accepting nominations for the County Official of the Year, Lifetime Achievement,

and Next Generation awards. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, October 17, and the award recipients will be announced at the NACO Annual Conference in December.

Click the links below to access the nomination forms:

[County Official of the Year](#)

[Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Next Generation Award](#)

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## **Hotel Reservation Form for Annual Conference Closes Today**

County official registration for the 2025 annual conference is now open. **The hotel reservation form closes today, October 10th**, and county official pre-registration for the conference ends November 21st.

Please consult the 2025 annual conference [web page](#) for all information relevant to attendees, including the registration policy, agenda overview, hotel reservation details, and other helpful links. Bookmark the web page to ensure you always have access to the most up-to-date information.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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## **NACo - Federal Government Shutdown: What Counties Need to Know**

As of 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, October 1, federal appropriations have lapsed, leading to a shutdown of government operations and agencies. This shutdown occurred because the 12 appropriations bills that fund federal agencies were not passed by Congress and signed by the president by the end of the fiscal year, which concluded on Sept. 30.

Continuous, predictable federal funding is crucial for counties as intergovernmental partners. While county governments generate over two-thirds of our own revenue to provide services to residents, counties receive \$62 billion in intergovernmental revenue from the federal government.

**To learn more about the impact of the federal shutdown on federally funded programs, and the impact of this shutdown on counties, NACo has prepared a [primer and FAQ](#). This resource includes possible impacts related to each federal agency and is a great place to start as you navigate possible effects of the shutdown for your county.**

[READ MORE](#)

As our intergovernmental partners in Congress and the administration continue to work towards a funding solution, NACo is here to support counties, equipping you with additional information and responding to specific inquiries about the impact of the shutdown. To contact our government affairs team, email [questions@naco.org](mailto:questions@naco.org).

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## **NACO Salary Study Overview & GIS Database Walk-Thru Webinar October 22nd**

NACO will host a webinar on October 22nd at 2 p.m. CST to discuss the salary study findings and walk through the GIS database.

[Register here.](#)

The salary study report & salary study database walkthrough are now available. Please email [elaine.menzel@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:elaine.menzel@nebraskacounties.org) or [luke.bonkiewicz@ebraskaounties.org](mailto:luke.bonkiewicz@ebraskaounties.org) for access.

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## **Legislative Interim Studies Scheduled**

Proposed initiative and referendum authority for counties ([LR253](#)) and the petition processes used in other states ([LR206](#)) will be the focus of a joint Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Friday, October 24.

Other hearings in October will focus on municipal land banks ([LR147](#)), riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)), and affordable housing ([LR86](#)).

Hearings are scheduled in November on the state-administered retirement systems ([LR97](#)) and the annual tax incentive and tax expenditure reports from the Nebraska Department of Revenue. A full list of hearing dates and locations can be found [here](#).

Interim study resolutions are introduced during the regular legislative session to study issues following the adjournment. They provide an opportunity for a deeper dive into bills that were introduced during prior sessions and some focus on ideas for bills to be introduced in 2026. Some hearings are limited to invited testimony, but public comments are accepted through the online comment button for each resolution. Some hearings will be livestreamed through [Nebraska Public Media](#).

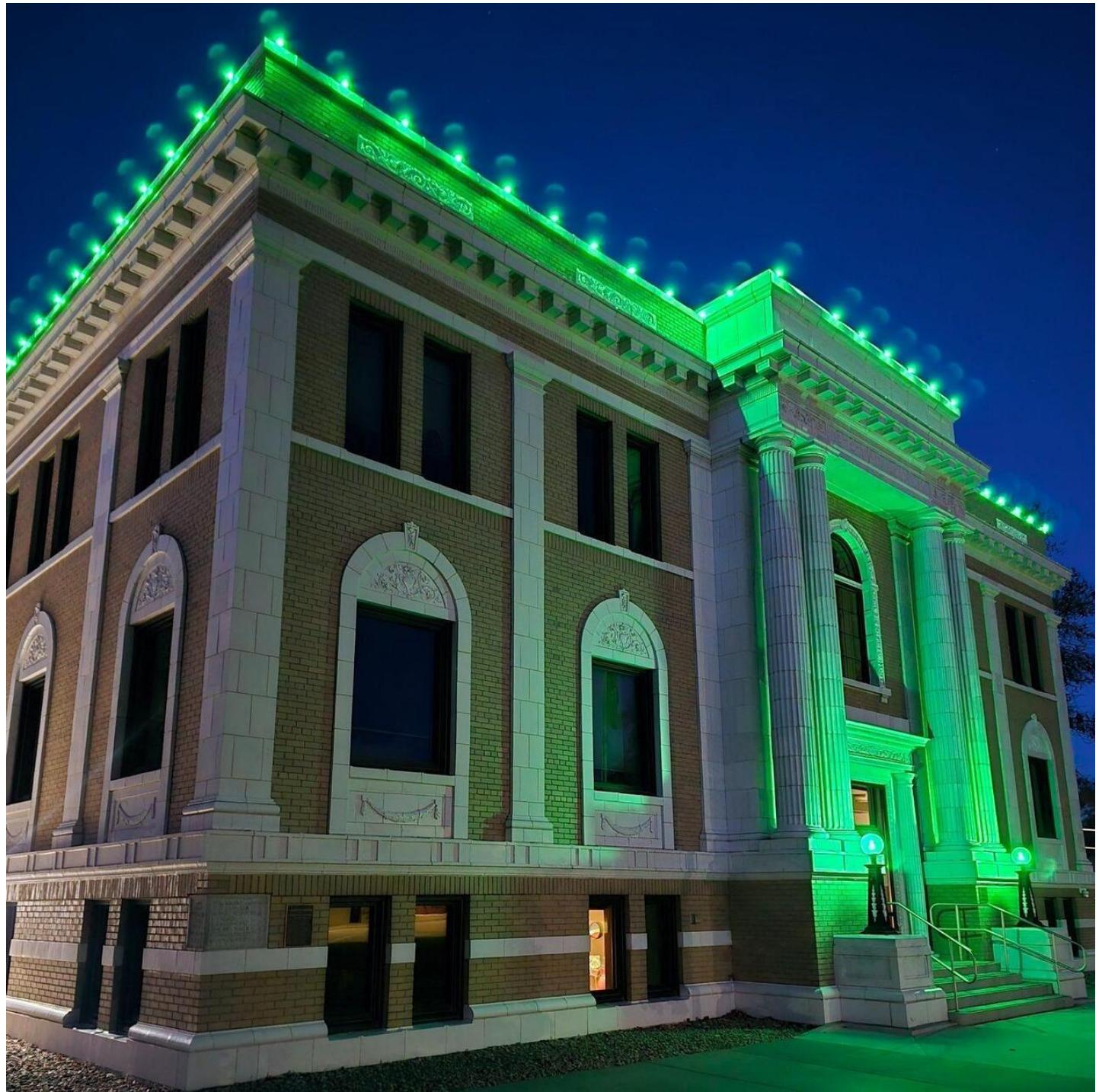
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## **Light Up Green for Veterans-November 4-11!**

This Veteran's Day, we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of Operation Green Light. The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to show support for veterans by lighting buildings green from November 4-11, 2025. By shining a green

light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. [Click here](#) to view NACo's toolkit, which includes resolution templates, outreach sources, and suggested materials to make your participation in Operation Greenlight as easy as possible.

Please email photos to [Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org](mailto:Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org) so we can share them on our socials!



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## Live Healthy Prescription, Health, and Dental Discount Program

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Live Healthy prescription discount applies to

everyday prescription costs. By following a few simple steps to sign your county up, counties can support community health and provide real savings to our residents. The program helps county residents save on prescription medications, with **no cost** to the county. This easy-to-implement program is designed for residents who are uninsured, underinsured, or simply looking to reduce costs.

NACO is working to increase county participation in the [Live Healthy Program](#) by ordering the necessary materials and aiding in distribution efforts. Keep an eye out for further information about next steps.



## Build healthier counties with **NACo**

### NACo's **Live Healthy Discount program**

delivers health savings to county residents at NO COST to the county.

Live Healthy has saved residents **more than \$720 million** on their prescriptions.



Enroll online at [NACorx.org](http://NACorx.org)



Appoint staff to lead the program



Order NO-COST print and digital materials



Display materials for residents to save



**Enroll into Live Healthy now**

\*The Live Healthy program is not insurance. Prescription savings may vary by drug and pharmacy; discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. MinuteClinic discounts are available in 33 states and the District of Columbia

## Create a Savi Account for Free Student Loan Repayment Guidance

## What Borrowers Need to Know:

- As of August 1, 2025, student loan interest began accruing again for the nearly 8 million borrowers enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan.
- The future of the SAVE Plan remains uncertain. In the meantime, interest is now being added to loan balances, though forbearances that pause payments remain in effect.
- While no immediate action is required, borrowers looking to avoid accumulating interest may want to switch to an active repayment plan. You can explore your options and [enroll directly through your Savi account.](#)

The recent changes to student loan repayment plans may be confusing borrowers. **Please encourage county employees and their dependents to start an account using the link above.** If you would like an email template for sending this information to employees in your county, email [Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org](mailto:Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org).

\$187

AVG. SAVINGS  
PER MONTH

\$50K

AVG.  
PROJECTED  
FORGIVENESS



Founded by longtime student loan experts and advocates, Savi helps borrowers enroll in federal repayment and forgiveness programs that could lower their monthly payments and potentially forgive their loans.

## CONQUER YOUR STUDENT LOANS



Savi detects your **eligibility for repayment options** and generates application forms digitally that are signed and submitted directly through Savi.

With Savi, **student loan expertise** is at your fingertips. Savi delivers tailored recommendations based on your unique loan profile with 1:1 support



Savi offers **free monthly educational webinars** to share student loan policy updates, explore the Savi tool, and answer your questions.



You can access a **free, instant estimate of savings** and broad student loan resources for financial health.



SCAN ME

Get started by scanning the QR code or going to: [nacobenefits.bysavi.com](http://nacobenefits.bysavi.com)

## What is a NACO Business Member?

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO continue to expand our educational programming for Nebraska county officials. Business members enjoy a number of benefits, including features on our website and social media pages. We also offer our business members a complimentary exhibit booth at the County Board Workshop, discounts on sponsorships, and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

Click the button below to learn more about NACO business memberships.

**NACO Business Memberships**

# 20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



## ELITE MEMBERS



**UBT**  
Union Bank & Trust.  
You belong here.™



**first CONCORD**  
Benefits Group



## PREMIUM MEMBERS



TRANE  
TECHNOLOGIES



## RESOURCES

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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